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SIXPENCE

SIR MAURICE HANKEY, on his retirement from the triple and highly responsible task of acting as Secretary to the Imperial Defence Committee, Secretary of the Cabinet and Clerk to the Privy Council, has received a parting salute of well-merited tributes from the Press of this country for the able and extraordinarily discreet manner in which he has discharged his duties. Posterity, which will have the advantage of reading the diary which he is understood to have religiously kept, will doubtless best be in a position to appreciate the precise amount of influence this most indispensable of Secretaries has in an eventful period in the world's history exerted on British and imperial statesmen and in guiding the inner counsels of his country and the Empire. But even to the uninitiated of his contemporaries the mere fact that Sir Maurice has so long held this unusual and quite unprecedented combination of important offices has been enough to mark him out as a man of exceptional gifts and talents and as a veritable, if slightly mysterious, power behind the scenes. The young captain of Marines who speedily rose from Assistant Secretary of the then newly constituted Committee of Imperial Defence to its Secretaryship and thereafter qualified himself for the other posts that were to fall to his lot, had clearly in him something more than the resourceful versatility of Kipling's "soldier and sailor too": a rare capacity for work and organisation, an amazingly rapid mastery of detail and a self-effacing discretion that quickly won the confidence and admiration of all who came in contact with him.

THE PALESTINE COMMISSION, to judge by an article from the *Times'* Jerusalem correspondent, is by no means having a pleasantly untroubled time. Its members have "seen this country in a disturbed state." They have also had opportunity to ponder the difficulties inherent in their terms of reference. The Arabs as a whole "view it (the Commission) coldly and moderate Arabs, as represented by the National Defence Party, have refused to appear before it." Partition is anathema to every Arab. What the Arabs want—as "they ask with monotonous insistence"—is an "Arab State, enjoying treaty relations with Great Britain, in which Jews now in Palestine, and no more, may have rights equal to all other citizens, provided they abandon the political aims of the National Home." The official Jewish attitude may be in favour of Partition, but there are apparently many Palestine Jews who are against it and who would like to have some other plan such as Palestine as a Crown colony, a bi-national State in which for a fixed time the Jews would agree to a numerical minority pending future negotiations, or some form of federal union wherein semi-autonomous Arab and Jewish States

would be under a British-controlled Federal Government. By this time it ought to be depressingly obvious to the Commission that the Partition investigations it has been instructed to undertake are not in the least likely to pave the way to Palestine peace. There is, as we have repeatedly said, only one sure way of securing that peace, and that is to abandon Partition and the Geneva Mandate and to bring Palestine directly and solely under the aegis of the British Crown.

"BOY RUSSELL'S" DERBY—the news was out in the streets long before a paper appeared. It has long been admitted that a reform of the Press is necessary and it seems certain that reform or perhaps annihilation will come from wireless. The only excuse for a modern newspaper's existence is its claim to provide news at the earliest possible moment; the wireless beats it at every point. A pedestrian who started to walk down St. James-street at the time that the Derby started and pursued his course down Pall Mall, turning into Carlton House Terrace, made his way through a perpetual B.B.C. commentary on the race from clubs, shops, cars and houses. If he walked slowly, he heard the result of the race at the Duke of York's steps and with prodigies of efficiency and energy the papers could only provide him with the name of the winner when he reached the bottom of the Strand through the passage under Trafalgar-square. It was amusing to note the bored expressions on the face of those who had backed a loser when the newsboys tried desperately to hypnotise them into buying a paper. The knell of printed news has sounded. The day will come when a halfpenny in the slot will provide the passer-by with the news and the Press will be driven to print something rather less ephemeral and more significant than a more or less inaccurate statement of recent events. It will be a step in the right direction when news is left to an automatic machine and views resume a certain importance in our daily life.

THE MANIFESTATIONS of the human mind which we generalise as the Arts, like their human creators, take colour from their surroundings. Beethoven in an unsympathetic building or Bellini in a Victorian setting lose a measure of their virtue in combating their surroundings. Mr. Richard Pearsall's exhibition was lucky the other day in the beautiful house lent by the Duchess of Devonshire. The exhibition consisted of etchings, drypoints and paintings of Venice and Spain. Their intention was to mirror nature rather than force her into an abstract formula, and they succeeded in capturing admirably the spirit of the places portrayed; many now, alas! destroyed. Amongst the etchings the plate of the Old Jewry, Ronda, showed a sympathy for tonal pattern,

while in the Puente de San Lazaro Plasencia could be seen an admirable control of line. Amongst the paintings must be mentioned that of the Dogana, Venice, and Sta. Maria della Salute.

GIN IS A SPIRIT that has become fashionable through the introduction of cocktails. There was a time when people said that gin was the safest spirit to drink, because it cost so little to make that it was not worth while to adulterate it, but a duty of £3 14s. on every proof gallon which goes into the still for rectification has altered that. It is a strange thing that in this country duties are always imposed to penalise anyone who tries to give the consumer a wholesome drink. Every gallon of spirit which is rectified loses a considerable percentage of its volume; rectification eliminates its impurities, which injure the consumer, and the excise authorities give no rebate. Gin is a spirit distilled from maize or barley, and it should be rectified until it has lost all its fusel oil and other unwholesome concomitants. Then it is infused with juniper berries, coriander seed and aromatic herbs and is again passed through the still. The best juniper berries come from Germany and Italy, and the juniper tree is said to have hidden the infant Jesus and his mother from Herod's soldiers. Coriander, which is now extensively cultivated in this country, gives a yellowish oil of medicinal value. Mr. C. W. Berry believes that gin is a spirit which is not improved by age in cask, on the ground that the wood eats up the infusion of juniper and coriander.

A MEDICAL RESEARCH DRIVE is to be inaugurated in the Dominion of Canada. A survey of existing facilities for medical research in Canada is to be made under the auspices of Sir Frederick Banting and the Committee of Medical Research which was established last March and of which he is Chairman. Sir Frederick will conduct the survey personally, visiting each of the principal centres to learn at first hand the work that is in progress. At a meeting of the Committee at which this decision was arrived at, it was agreed that it would not be possible to shape a definite programme of work until the results of the survey were made available for study. Stress was laid on the advantages to be gained by the further co-ordination of work that is being carried on in the principal centres of medical research in Canada. It was felt that much of the benefit to be gained through the newly-established Committee would be in the stimulus it could give and the assistance it could render to existing institutions for medical research. Proposals were put forward that the Committee should plan to provide for scholarships in medical research and also to grant financial assistance for the conduct of research in universities and hospitals on approved projects. It was agreed, however, that owing to the limited funds available to the Committee at the present time no action should be taken immediately on these matters. On the question whether there should be a scientific investigation instituted into reported cancer cures, the Committee also decided in the negative.

CEYLON IS SHOWING signs of following Britain's lead in two directions. One is in regard to the storage of food, this, however, to be undertaken only in the event of a "grave crisis." In a programme recently drawn up by the Island's Food Controller, the suggestion is put forward that to prepare for a grave crisis, rice should be stored in various good sheds in Colombo which would provide a capacity of nearly 200,000 cubic feet of space. The "grave crisis" is defined as a state of war between the Empire and other Western nations, quite possibly also involving Japan, and the point is stressed that, in the event of such a situation arising, no rice would be available from Siam, in view of Japan's alliance with that country. The other direction in which British influence is discernible is that of traffic control. Belisha Beacons may come in time to adorn Ceylon's roads. In a recent report, Mr. J. R. C. Bantock, Superintendent of Police, Colombo, suggests the possibility of traffic rules on the lines introduced by Mr. Hore-Belisha in England being incorporated in the Ceylon Motor Traffic Ordinance now being prepared. Recommendations have already been made to the Colombo Municipal Council to put down pedestrian crossings at certain points in the Colombo roads, and it is suggested that the Ordinance should incorporate rules for pedestrian crossings similar to those now in force in England.

AT THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS last week Mr. A. E. W. Mason read a paper on the "Artistic Future of the Films." Mr. Mason stressed the "visible transition" value of the film, a quality, he said, which made this medium more akin to the novel than the play, and rendered it peculiarly well fitted for presenting the epic story. He hoped for film versions of "The Ring and the Book," "Robinson Crusoe," "Gulliver's Travels" and particularly "The Odyssey." The speaker rather severely criticised the levelling effect of mechanical reproduction on the voice, robbing it, he said, of personality and emotional content.

A LITTLE TIME AGO flying pictures were rather the fashion; since that time the screen has left the air pretty well alone. However, influenced possibly by the propaganda to make people air-minded, Hollywood has stepped into the cockpit once more, and the result is an exciting, nerve-racking film at the Empire, called *Test Pilot*. The subjects of this picture are the pilots who try out the new machines for height, speed and durability. There are plenty of crashes, a good deal of "stunt" flying and some caustic dialogue. Clark Gable is the pilot, Spencer Tracy his able mechanic and Myrna Loy, the girl who, seeing in Gable some likeness to Sir Galahad, marries him, and soon finds out that the life is altogether different from the one she had imagined. Waiting for his inevitable crash gets on her nerves, but, needless to say, it all comes right in the end. This film is splendidly photographed, and the American Air Force shows up to great advantage.

Leading Articles

WAR, PEACE AND CONSCRIPTION

THE reconciliation of individual liberty with efficiency is the problem with which the so-called democracies have to deal. It is amusing to note that one of these democracies, France, owes its existence and structure to the greatest of autocrats, Napoleon I. In these days it is continually argued that dictatorship rule means the extinction of individual freedom. *Mutatis mutandis*, the tyranny of Napoleon Bonaparte was the most effective the world has ever seen. If only its founder had not been led astray by mad notions of the glory that brought so little to Julius Caesar and Alexander, the compromise between an efficient State and a wide liberty to every citizen might have been effected. The solution of modern difficulties might quite possibly be found in a framework that gave liberty of expression to every citizen in his daily life, with the understanding that he must sacrifice that liberty for its own sake in case of national emergency. It may be that such an ideal demands too much both from rulers and ruled. Yet perhaps in this country we are too inclined to think that a money payment can take the place of personal sacrifice. The blood tax in France that is the personal sacrifice of every young man in serving his time in the army is accepted, no doubt with grumbling and bitterness, as the price that must be paid for the ineffable blessing of being a French citizen. Conscription means a degree of centralisation and a hindrance to personal freedom which seems to be the denial of what is called democracy. Yet it is extremely doubtful whether in any country to-day a man is more free to live his life as he wants to, provided that he does not trespass on his neighbour's rights, than a Frenchman. A dictator produced the machine, and to-day it is provided with a number of elected figure-heads like the mascots on a motor car which are supposed to run it, but in truth it runs itself with an inexhaustible supply of ever-changing mascots.

After looking at France, surely this country can take heart of grace. Our machine was created by no one person: it is the result of endless actions and reactions arising over centuries out of that national character which is born from the clash of endless conflicting ideas. So far as individual liberty is concerned, people are on the whole free to express themselves. The War broke down a whole series of bonds and fetters, and the new generation is beginning to realise that there was something to be said for a system which prevented the child from throwing itself bodily into the fire

like a moth into the lamp. Yet we possess a tradition for efficiency that has never been lost. What we make is solid and endures. Every Englishman is bound to grumble about the British workman. Sherlock Holmes was tempted to talk of his shortcomings by the imprint of a boot-nail on the floor-cloth. Yet with all his faults that workman does his job far closer to our liking than any foreigner could. A well-known English Socialist who went to Soviet Russia full of confidence and hope that the world had been born anew was utterly disillusioned when he found that he pressed buttons and nothing happened and that switching on the electricity was by no means bound to produce light. There is still a certain conscientiousness about the British workman, which sets him far higher than any other, and he would lose that virtue if he was not allowed to do his work in his own way. Mass productions rain down on a weary world floods of things that it does not want, and the only check to this spate of wastefulness is the refusal of the working man to change his ways.

In time of national emergency, when the right to live and think independently is in jeopardy, it is clear that that right must be suspended. If Shelley himself were writing the Ode to the Skylark in a pillbox which was in imminent danger of capture, he would have to lay his paper and pen aside and help repel the assault which denied both his skylark and his poetry. That would be bitterly unfortunate, but as there is no reason at all to suppose that the world was constructed with a view to the happiness of man, it would be necessary, and things turn so strangely that, after the battle, the poet whether dead or alive might find himself tenfold inspired. The unimportance of death, accepted by our ancestors as a truism, is a lesson which this generation finds it very hard to learn. Millions perished in the War, more millions died of influenza after the War, and still death remains as the final end for every living being, unless it is no more than a beginning.

As things are, we can only try to combine our deathless certainty that a man's mind must be free within the limits of his fellows' freedom and our admission that even that freedom must at times be sacrificed for its own preservation. Fear is the worst of counsellors; yet without fear there would be no sentient life. That fear which is Prometheus, the reasonable fore-thought which provides against the dangers that might extinguish the fire from Heaven, is no worse a counsellor than the prudence which warns a man to study the traffic before he crosses the road. War breeds war, cry our pacifists, and no doubt they are right. Sooner or later, the pedestrian who crosses the road will be crushed by some mad car of Juggernaut, however careful he is, but his prudence will prolong his days. So if this country does everything in its power to dissuade other countries from making war on it, it may postpone the evil day, and so far there is no sign that our re-armament has deprived the Englishman of his birthright. Lord Baldwin was right when he prayed for peace in our time, and if one thing is certain in history it is that the less men expect, the less they are disappointed. In an imperfect world, ideals which ignore human nature are doomed to failure. If they were

achieved, they would not be ideal. Provided that our rulers work quietly and impassionately to secure a period of peace, it is quite possible that they may achieve more than they hope. Doing the next thing, solving as best they can the immediate problem with no more concern for the distant future than prudence demands, they may accomplish as much as any builder of castles in Spain, and heaven knows it is far easier to construct Utopian fantasies than to deal with the least little problem of daily administration.

WHITE AND BLACK IN AFRICA

THE greatest problem facing Africa, south of the Sudan, is usually referred to as the "Native Question." This appellation is hardly accurate, for the problem has been created by the coming of the European. For better or for worse, however, the white man is in Africa, and means to stop. The question is how the two races, with their very different cultures and standards of living, are to get along together.

Statesmen of the Union of South Africa, appreciating the difficulties have, for the most part, avoided them and yielded to the articulate race. North of the Zambezi, and in the South African Protectorates, the Colonial Office, subjected to well-meaning but less well-informed pressure, has not set a very satisfactory example.

Of this, the "naval demonstration" in Bechuanaland, the Copper Belt riots and the Nyasaland Native Emigrant Labour Report are recent examples.

The Whitehall theory of "paramount" native interests has worked no better than the practice of the Colour Bar, and for similar reasons; nor has mere neglect proved satisfactory in the South African Protectorates.

Between the Union and the Crown Colonies north of the Zambezi, both geographically and politically, lies the self-governing Colony of Southern Rhodesia, and here there has arisen a man who has faced squarely up to the "Native Question" and has set his answer to it into motion.

His axioms are the admission that there is a difference between the two races, that both have their rights, that each is necessary to the other, that a prosperous State implies the progress and happiness of all its people and that the interests of neither can be made paramount over the other.

Mr. G. M. Huggins, Prime Minister and Minister of Native Affairs of Southern Rhodesia, has propounded a policy which aims at preventing the exploitation of the Native by the European or the lowering of the European standard of living to that of the Native. His scheme, which is new, is sometimes referred to as the "Two Pyramids" policy, though "Parallel Development" is perhaps a better phrase. It has the approval of the Imperial Government by whom it is being watched with particular interest. Mr. Huggins has the Rhodesian Parliament and people with him.

Very briefly the new objective is the partial and gradual segregation of the two races in areas where

their respective interests shall be "paramount."

In the native areas, where the black man will be protected from the competition of the white, the Bantu will be free to rise to any position and hold any appointment for which he is fit. No European may own an interest in land, or settle in, a native area, trade there or practise his profession, unless his presence is admittedly for the benefit of the Native.

Conversely, when a Native enters a European area, for instance to labour or to buy or to sell, he must accept the principle that he is a visitor, though a welcome visitor, but he must not undercut the wages of a skilled European or take part in Parliamentary or Municipal elections. Eventual Native representation in a common Parliament is envisaged.

How far has the scheme been implemented? To answer this we must go back a little.

When, in 1924, the Colony became responsible for its own government, one of the first acts of its first Premier, the late Sir Charles Coghlan, was to set up a Land Commission, of which Sir William Morris Carter was the Chairman. The result of this Commission's Report, made in 1926, was the division of the land, outside the twenty-one and a half million acres of existing native reserves, into definite areas in which ownership or interest in land might be acquired by (a) Europeans, (b) Natives, and (c) left for future determination—the latter involving about eighteen million acres.

Southern Rhodesia is, therefore, fortunate in still having sufficient land for both Natives and Europeans, but a difficulty to be tackled in the "Two Pyramids" scheme is the numerous separate, scattered and irregularly shaped "islands" forming the Native Reserves. Already the Government has brought adjacent areas to round off awkward indentations and add to the reserves.

Last year the Southern Rhodesian Parliament passed three important Acts bearing on the new policy. One provided for the setting up of local self-government in Native Reserves. Another returned to the Chiefs the power, under certain safeguards, to try Civil cases within their tribal boundaries, between Native and Native, and the Third decreed that when a Native is employed in a European municipality as a skilled artisan in the building trades he shall receive the same wages as an European. The effect is practically to exclude skilled Native craftsmen from competing with Europeans in the prescribed "white islands."

As explained, this partial segregation is to be introduced gradually, and with it efforts towards the social and economic improvement of the Bantu will be continued. Looked at from the most selfish point of view this is to the benefit of the European. A civilised and affluent Native population is a valuable market for the white man's products. The uncivilised tribal Native produces enough for his own needs. To earn money for the clothes and gadgets of civilisation he will offer his labour to the white man. Without the proximity of the white man the Bantu would sink back to savagery and its accompanying miseries of famine, disease, tribal wars and slavery.

How much, how quickly, and in what direction the Bantu can assimilate the white man's civilisation has yet to be ascertained. His mind is different from, but not necessarily inferior to, the European's. For instance, mechanism appeals to him but, at present, commerce seems quite beyond him.

He needs, and will long continue to need, the guidance of the European. He needs education and is eager for it. He needs religion and law to take the place of his barbaric superstitions and his crumbling tribal customs, with their often useful inhibitions.

To meet his particular needs, Mr. Huggins' policy is to encourage, by means of financial grants, the Christian Missions to take over Native secular education, to teach by means of trained Native demonstrators less wasteful methods of agriculture and to improve the Native's stamina, physique, and ideas of hygiene by means of hospitals and clinics throughout the Reserves.

The "Native Question" arose when the first European set foot on Africa. After nearly four hundred years a hopeful effort is being made to solve it by a method that need not be confined to the boundaries of Southern Rhodesia.

F. M. COLLINS.

THE SPEAKING OF ENGLISH

MUCH HAS BEEN written lately about reading aloud, and the inaudibility and general bad diction of public speakers. Articles in this paper have already dealt with this subject as regards the stage, where the performers for the most part entirely ignore the listeners in the cheaper seats, and speak exclusively to the privileged few in the front stalls. There are, of course, many exceptions, but to be heard all over the theatre should be the rule, and should be insisted on by all producers. There is no possible excuse for slipshod speech by a professional speaker.

The good speaking of English is, however, of far wider importance than this; every child could and should be taught to read aloud clearly and unaffectedly, and to speak distinctly from its earliest days. How is this to be achieved? A child learns to speak by imitation. Let parents and teachers be sure they set them a good pattern to follow. Next encourage children to read aloud. The written word often seems dull to a child, but read it to him, clearly and in such a way as to give the full meaning and beauty of the words, and he will respond to its appeal. Let the children take it in turns to read aloud, or let an older child read to the little ones.

Children are easily impressed with the beauty of phraseology and with a little guidance they soon learn to appreciate good literature, and on that appreciation good delivery easily follows. To read aloud sympathetically therefore comes with education, for the love of rhythm and the sound of words grows as the love of prose and verse increases.

Time should be set aside in all schools for the systematic training in the proper use of the voice whenever possible. In girl's schools far more attention is paid to this subject than it is in boy's schools. This is to be regretted, as broadly speaking men have more opportunity for public oratory

than women. The clergy, for example, whose opportunities for public speaking are very great, often ruin their own cause by bad delivery and a frankly ridiculous intonation. "The clerical voice" has become a byword. That this is quite unnecessary, and against the best interests of the Church, is proved by such men as The Archbishop of Canterbury, whose every word can be heard without strain; and the vicars of St. Martin in the Fields and St. Jude's, Kensington, whose churches are packed with delighted listeners.

Speed, modulation, and the giving of full value to vowels and consonants, is really all that is needed for audibility and the determination that people on the back benches shall hear. Added to this a strong conviction and the desire to convert people from indifference to a real interest in the subject on hand, should be enough to ensure the success of any speaker.

The habit of intoning the prayers in church is to be deplored, a practice which robs them of all appeal, the beauty of the words being almost entirely lost; but it is even worse when the Epistle and Gospel are similarly treated. It would be considered absurd to intone the lessons, or sermon, why then should other readings from the Bible be rendered monotonous and meaningless?

Let all in charge of young people take this matter up seriously so that the oncoming generation will take their places in pulpit and platform with assurance and courage. The Greeks made oratory a national custom; we need not go as far as that but we must not rest till good speech is the rule of the day.

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MACMILLAN

Books of The Day

EVE OF WAR DIPLOMACY

DR. G. P. GOOCH, while being engaged with Professor Harold Temperley in presenting volume after volume of "British Documents on the Origins of the War, 1898-1914," has found time to supplement that highly important work with a series of illuminating studies in pre-war diplomacy in two volumes. The first of these volumes was published in 1936 and dealt in turn with five European statesmen—Lansdowne, Delcassé, Bulow, Iswolsky and Aehrenthal. The second volume ("Before The War: Studies in Diplomacy," Vol. 2, "The Coming of the Storm," Longmans, 10s.) is concerned with Grey, Poincaré, Bethmann Hollweg, Sazonoff and Berchtold. The study of Grey is the longest, because his term of office exceeded that of the others, and the study of Poincaré the shortest because he was in control of French foreign policy only for a single eventful year.

Dr. Gooch, in his preface, is careful to explain that he has made no attempt to prove or disprove any thesis; his sole object has been to explain the formation of policies and the sequence of events. The method he has adopted of giving separate studies of each statesman inevitably involves a certain amount of overlapping, but this, he contends, on balance is not to be deplored. "Complicated international situations," he says, "should be studied from different angles." His own wide researches into pre-war documentary history have peculiarly qualified him for the task he has undertaken, and throughout these studies he finds ample opportunity for citing documents that elucidate points in the narrative. And his impartiality is attested by the declaration with which he introduces these studies:—

"The responsibilities of 1914 will not be decided by this or that book. That any single statesman or nation was the sole criminal is no longer seriously believed . . . It is part of the tragedy of the world war that every belligerent can make out a case entirely convincing to itself. For tragedy, in Hegel's words, is the conflict not of right with wrong, but of right with right. The statesmen portrayed in these pages did not create the evil system of groups and alliances which they were called upon to work, and none of them had the power to change it, even if the will was there. The ultimate cause of the explosion was the European anarchy, the absence of international organisation, the doctrine of the unfettered sovereign national state, the universal assumption that the graver disputes could only be settled by the sword."

In his study of Grey, Dr. Gooch concludes by saying that Grey honestly strove to avert the war and that it "was his unhappy lot to be faced by problems too complex to be solved by a single country." He stood in 1914 "precisely where he had taken his stand in 1906. His task was to work the system constructed before he was called to the helm. . . . There is no reason to believe that Lansdowne would have acted differently in any of the major emergencies of the time." When Germany declared war on France without French

provocation and violated the neutrality of Belgium, there was, Dr. Gooch holds, no real choice for England; we simply had to intervene. At the same time he notes without passing judgment on them various criticisms by Mr. Lloyd George and others on Grey's conduct of affairs in the last days of July and the beginning of August. Here the issue has been raised whether the catastrophe of war could have been averted even at the eleventh hour had Grey exhibited "a more resourceful diplomacy." He might, it has been argued, have "vigorously urged Russia to abstain from mobilisation;" he might have given Germany a clear warning before July 29 and thus forced her to keep Austria in check; he might have addressed stern warnings to Austria; or, as Mr. Lloyd George has contended, he might have proclaimed at the outset that a violation of Belgian neutrality would be regarded by us as a *casus belli*. It is only in his study of Berchtold that Dr. Gooch offers the opinion that "perhaps only a timely and categorical declaration of England's intention to intervene could have held them (Berchtold and his colleagues) back."

Bethmann Hollweg Dr. Gooch describes as "the Hamlet of modern Germany." Like Grey, "he was a great gentleman and a sincere lover of peace; but he was an amateur in diplomacy and he was never master in his own house. He longed for the friendship of England, but was forbidden to pay the price." It was, says Dr. Gooch, "a misfortune for the world that post-Bismarckian Germany produced no statesman of the first rank." When Francis Joseph inquired at Berlin whether he might rely on the support of Germany in the quarrel with Serbia, the mistake Berlin made, says Dr. Gooch, was not in promising aid, but in allowing Berchtold alone to take charge.

That Germany declared war against Russia on August 1st, while Austria waited till August 6th, was due to military considerations alone. It is a legend that the stronger partner, thirsting for the fray, hustled the weaker; for the policy was made in Vienna, not in Berlin, and at the eleventh hour Bethmann endeavoured to rein in the runaway steed. Berchtold and his colleagues, in possession of the German promise of support, had gone straight ahead, resolved to perish rather than retreat.

So far as Berchtold is concerned Dr. Gooch considers that, in all the circumstances, he merely acted as almost every other Austrian statesman would have acted in his place, and he quotes the opinion of the then British Ambassador in Vienna, Sir Maurice de Bunsen: "So just was the cause of Austria held to be that it seemed to her people inconceivable that any country should place itself in her path or that questions of mere policy or prestige should be regarded anywhere as superseding the necessity which had arisen to exact summary vengeance for the crime of Serajevo." Berchtold took up what he believed was a Serbian challenge to Austria; he could not believe that Serbia would remain content with the frontiers of 1913. At the close of the Bosnian crisis Serbia had promised to be a good neighbour, but it seemed to Berchtold that she had not kept her word and her intimacy with Russia was notorious. "Austria's intransigence after Serajevo," says Dr. Gooch, "is only intelligible in the light of her experiences and emotions since 1908."

Similar was the case of Russia and its Foreign Minister, Sazonoff. To them there was no alternative but war. Sazonoff inherited a tradition from which he had neither the power nor the wish to depart.

Russia's inability to take up the challenge in 1900 was a bitter memory and no one could expect her to submit to humiliation again. By 1914, thanks to military reorganisation and a series of good harvests, she had regained her self-confidence. The same instinctive pride of a great Power which prompted Vienna to throw down the glove compelled St. Petersburg to pick it up. It is true that, while Austria fought under the banner of self-preservation, Russia, whom nobody threatened, marched out to battle in the name of prestige. But in the accepted scale of national values prestige, honour and security are motive forces of equal weight . . . Russia's responsibility for the catastrophe was greater than Sazonoff was prepared to admit, for her championship of Pan-Serb ambitions was Austria's chief anxiety. Yet the ultimate cause of the conflagration was the rivalry of two proud Empires which was far older than the Austro-Serb feud. Thus when the hour of decision arrived and the whole world was looking on, neither side cared or dared to draw back.

DEFECTS AND IDEALS

Mr. William Teeling, in giving the title "Why Britain Prospers" (Gifford, 10s. 6d.), to a book in which he discourses with much shrewdness and sound sense on a variety of different topics such as Empire migration and development, the need for better British propaganda, Labour Camps and National Service, makes no effort to answer the query implicit in his title. Rather he accepts the fact that we are prosperous and far better off than most of our neighbours, but feels the necessity of warning us against too great self-complacency. He thinks that it is time we abandoned our favourite attitude of muddling through.

We do stand for something very different from the new "isms" of the Continent. But what that something is nine-tenths of us have no idea; and if we are to contribute our share to world peace and world development, we must understand our Empire better, our ideals better, and especially what it is we want our Government to do.

In some respects, Mr. Teeling argues, we have much to learn from other countries. For example, he would like our own training and instructional centres to approximate more closely to the German Labour Camps. Again, we cannot, he holds, afford to be indifferent to the uses of propaganda as employed by the Governments of other Great Powers. Mr. Teeling suggests many ways in which we might employ that propaganda to good purpose abroad and adds: "We ourselves badly need propaganda within the Empire and propaganda to a far greater extent than we have got it to-day in our own country." There is "no lack of vitality in the Empire to-day, only a lack of direction." More ought to be done in developing that Empire and in bringing the peoples that compose it to a more complete understanding of one another. To surrendering any parts of that Empire Mr. Teeling is firmly opposed. And so we reach his final conclusions:—

We ourselves have an Empire and Colonies with whom we can work together to strengthen ourselves, physically, mentally and strategically as well as spiritually. To-day we have most of the good things of the world and until things are better in the world, as a whole, it seems to me unlikely that we can improve

THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

*The Weekly Newspaper
of the World of Books*

TO serve the changing needs of the modern reader, *The Times Literary Supplement* has recently been redesigned, with "sign-posted" reviews for the reader's convenience, and widened in scope to include more topics, more illustrations, and more special articles. Everyone who recognizes the close relationship between literature and life to-day, and who feels it necessary to keep in touch with new trends and developments, will appreciate the vigorous criticism and informative comment in *The Times Literary Supplement* each week. The contents of the paper now include the following features:

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Week by week the editorial opinion on topics of outstanding importance is given in brief and pointed leading articles.

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Signed articles written by eminent authors are to be commissioned on centenary and other chosen occasions.

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Under the heading NEWS AND NOTES the reader will find a series of paragraphs concerning developments in the world of authors and publishers, activities of literary societies, and other relevant topics.

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The new form of the *Literary Supplement* makes it possible to include more and larger illustrations than hitherto. The quality of reproduction renders these especially pleasing to the eye, while the subjects are chosen for their informative value as well as their decorative qualities.

**Every Friday
THREEPENCE**

our lot very much more except in the way other countries have already improved theirs, by the breaking down of class barriers, in the development of physical strength and in the development of our unused wealth, on which we are sitting possibly a little selfishly. How can we set about this? Only by keeping the peace of the world, and the only way Great Britain can save the world from a general conflagration is by being a little bit more realistic in international politics.

What he visualises for a future Europe is "a series of loose federations on lines not yet tried out," and Britain's realistic policy should be, not to attempt to stop changes occurring, but "to do our best to make them occur with the least amount of international friction."

THOMAS BECKET

Mr. Robert Speaight, having played the leading part in Mr. T. S. Eliot's highly successful poetic drama "The Murder in the Cathedral," has been moved to offer to the reading public his own interpretation of the character he has so admirably impersonated on the stage. His "Thomas Becket" (with two illustrations, Longmans, 6s.) "does not," he tells us, "claim to be in any sense a work of scientific history," though the narrative is based on contemporary "lives" or responsible collations of them, and wherever the author has ventured on historical judgment he has, he says, been "guided by scholars, like Mr. Zachary Brooke, whose devoted researches into medieval history deserve to be more widely known." As he writes as a Roman Catholic, he has no doubts on the point of Thomas Becket's sanctity or the miracles associated with him, after his death. But his sympathy with Becket's championship of ecclesiastical privileges does not prevent him either from being blind to Becket's faults or from being fair to Henry II, whose "place" he acknowledges "is secure among the greatest and the ablest of English Kings," even if his "dæmonic temperament" made it impossible for him to be "among the greatest of English Christians."

The story of Becket's career, as Mr. Speaight so skilfully and delightfully unfolds it, is one of remarkable contrasts between two periods of notable service, civil and religious, and helps to make us understand the bewildered irritation with which Henry II came to view the behaviour of Thomas the Archbishop. No one could have served the King more devotedly and more loyally than Thomas the Chancellor, who had raised no scruples even over the levying of scutage on Church property and whom Henry had treated on terms of intimate friendship. How could such a man, Henry might well have asked himself, be suddenly transformed into a bitter and unbending opponent of the secular policy he had been so enthusiastic hitherto in carrying out in the smallest detail? True, Thomas had warned Henry that if he became Archbishop there would be "endless strife between them." But could Henry, with Thomas's past record before him, really be expected to take seriously this warning? Such was the beginning of this twelfth century struggle between Church and State that was to result in Becket's murder and in casting a deep shadow over Henry's reign. Mr. Speaight throws fresh light on this struggle by his

researches into medieval theories of the conflicting rights of secular and ecclesiastical authority, and his book has particular value and interest because of its emphasis on the human aspects of the drama.

OUR DEFENDERS

Britain is in the process of spending upwards of £2,000 millions on re-armament, but are we in danger of thinking of defence more in terms of machines than of men? Commander Russell Grenfell is convinced that we are, and his book "The Men Who Defend Us" (Eyre & Spottiswoode, 9s.) is directed towards proving that "the possession of powerful armaments gives a sense of security which is entirely misplaced if the men who use them are lacking in quality and skill" and that "if the country wants officers and men who are not only men of war, but masters of war, it must pay the price that mastery always demands." In other words, his contention is that the time has arrived for putting the pay of the services on an economic basis.

Commander Grenfell has his own ideas of what pay "on an economic basis" for the fighting services in all ranks should be, but before he sets out these figures he feels he has to survey past history in order to bring present conditions in those services into their proper perspective. He starts with the theme that the country's main endeavour in the past has been to procure its fighting men at the minimum of cost. It is this unfortunate tradition that he regards as mainly responsible for the fact that even to-day the defenders of the country receive a relatively far lower rate of remuneration than their opposite numbers in civil employ. Commander Grenfell is not content with mere generalisations. He reinforces his argument page after page with an impressive array of figures and tables of comparative statistics. As he holds that the Anderson Committee's Report of 1923 still remains the governing factor in the payment of the fighting services he proceeds to examine it in detail and ruthlessly to demolish its "fallacies." He next turns to consider the increases in pay and allowances recently announced in the Service Estimates, and to demonstrate that so far from these being in the nature of a comprehensive re-adjustment of Service pay, they merely represent "minor modifications of the situation that came into being as the result of the Anderson Committee's Report."

Having thus cleared the ground for his own proposals, Commander Grenfell details the rates of pay that, in his opinion, both justice and expediency demand should be established. He has drawn up those rates on the assumption that all three fighting Services should have a common system of pay and pensions. And he does not confine himself to mere suggestions of increased pay. He also points the way how to make the conditions of service more attractive. He estimates that the cost of carrying out his pay proposals would be an addition of some £40,000,000 to the expenditure on the three Services. This he admits would be a heavy increase of expenditure, but not too heavy, he argues, for a country pouring out some £2,000 millions on the greatest re-armament

programme in its history and which is also spending hundreds of more millions a year on alcohol, tobacco and various forms of entertainment. It is not to be supposed that all Commander Russell's readers will share in his optimistic expectations or will agree either with all his assumptions or even the whole of his general argument, but his book is unquestionably a thought-provoking one that deserves close attention at a time when efficiency in defence is a matter of national importance.

MODERN BANKING HISTORY

A second edition of "A Hundred Years of Joint Stock Banking," by W. F. Crick and J. E. Wadsworth, is now available (Hodder and Stoughton, 15s. net.). The original edition, which was exhausted some time ago, was published early in 1936, and it has attracted considerable attention as a successful experiment in the presentation of banking history on the background of general economic development. The subject matter of the book is provided largely by original material drawn from the records of the Midland Bank and its numerous amalgamations. An outline of banking history in modern times is followed by separate chapters dealing with the progress achieved in various parts of the country, and a number of biographical studies are included. The book contains a large amount of statistical material and is illustrated by portraits and charts.

NEW NOVELS

Herr Franz Werfel is an Austrian novelist, dramatist and poet whose work received recognition from the former Austrian Government and has been translated into many European languages. Jarrolds have now published a translation—a very able one—of his latest novel. This is called "Hearken Unto The Voice" (8s. 6d.). The main part of it is a magnificently conceived reconstruction of the life and times of Jeremiah the prophet at that period of storm and stress when Jerusalem was sacked by the army of Babylon. It is a flash back into history brought about for one of a group of modern travellers in Palestine in a moment of time through the agency of that mysterious primordial essence of the Vedas known as *akasha*. The story begins and ends with these modern travellers, the underlying purpose of the selection of that form being to convey a sense of unity between past and present. And that sense of unity is further strengthened by the vivid manner in which the ancient scenes of sorrow and conflict are presented through the power of Herr Werfel's finely creative imagination.

Miss Daphne Nicol allows the two sisters of her "Women of Affairs" (Faber & Faber) to disclose their characters to us through the medium of their respective diaries, extracts from which are alternately produced. And if anyone should imagine that that method of telling a story must necessarily detract from its interest, he or she has only to read Miss Nicol's book to realise how mistaken that view is. In Miss Nicol's hands the method becomes merely an example of clever artistry; it helps effectively to point the contrasts

between the two sisters' characters—the one passionate and intellectual, the other cold-blooded, but ever ready to exploit her beauty and femininity. Both have their love affairs, in the one case passionate and unsatisfactory, in the other adroitly managed. And there is just the right ending to the story.

No one knows better those aboriginal Indian people, the Gonds, who inhabit the jungles of Central India, than Mr. Verrier Elwin who has lived so long among them. He gave us an excellent story about them in his "Phulmat of the Hills" and he has now written an even better tale of love, crime and superstition out of the same jungly environment. This is entitled "A Cloud That's Dragonish" (John Murray), and is sure of a warm welcome from all acquainted with Mr. Elwin's gift for sympathetic revealing of the life and customs of this Indian jungle folk.

Mr. Freeman Wills Crofts can be relied upon to give his readers and his Detective Inspector French an ingeniously worked out crime problem to solve. In "The End of Andrew Harrison" (Hodder & Stoughton), the dead man is found in his cabin on his houseboat with the door locked from inside and with the porthole closed. Everything at first suggests suicide, but when French gets busy with his investigations murder becomes the obvious explanation. But it still remains to find the person or persons who carried out the murder. The reader and French go off on a long and promising but nonetheless false trail. And then at last comes the surprise disclosure of the real murderer.

A new murder book by

**WARNER
ALLEN**

Times Literary Supplement: "The name of the author will at once tell the reader what to expect—in short, a book full of wit, rich in incidents and ingenious in design.

"Mr. Warner Allen has chosen for his background the home and political life of Roger d'Arblay, bitter opponent of the French premier, Allard. Public and private intrigues lead to a series of tragedies.

"A brilliant chapter on the trial of Madame d'Arblay for the murder of Allard deserves special mention as a model for those who should ever attempt the dangerous feat of balancing on a rope stretched between accurate observation and planned exaggeration, without falling into the net of caricature."

7/6 net

"DEATH FUNGUS"

Constable

Round the Empire

CANADA'S HISTORIC SITES

CANADA is mindful of her past, and one of the many active bodies which exist for keeping her yesterdays in the minds of the people of to-day has just been holding its annual meeting in Ottawa. It is the Historic Sites and Monuments Board, an honorary advisory body composed of recognised historians from various sections of the Dominion, which co-operates with the National Parks Bureau of the Department of Mines and Resources in the work of selecting sites worthy of marking, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific stirring events in the history of Canada are being recalled by tablets and monuments erected by the Department.

Since its formation in 1919 the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada has carried out a survey of Canadian historic sites. It has had more than one thousand sites under review and from these 357 have been selected as of national importance and recommended for attention. Two hundred and fifty-six of these sites have been marked to date by suitable memorials and a number of others acquired with a view to the preservation of the ancient structures located thereon. Museums have been established at the Fortress of Louisbourg, Nova Scotia; Fort Anne, Nova Scotia; Fort Beausejour, New Brunswick; Fort Chambly, Quebec; Fort Lennox, Quebec; and Fort Wellington, Ontario, which house articles and exhibits of historic interest.

During the year 1937, eighteen sites were marked throughout the Dominion, the most important of which was the large monument erected at Lachine, Quebec, to the memory of Robert Cavelier de LaSalle, who founded Lachine in 1667 and by his explorations enabled France to extend its domains to the mouth of the Mississippi.

WINGING THE SCRIPTURES

One of Canada's romantic figures in the world of wild life preservation is Mr. Jack Miner, whose sanctuary for birds at Kingsville, Ontario, has achieved world fame. His interest, however, is not confined merely to the preservation of species. In his own way he is an evangelist as well, and he ingeniously enlists the aid of his birds to spread the Gospel in the Far North. Year after year birds leave his sanctuary for the annual migrations, and bear on their legs a metal tag bearing a scriptural text. To the Indians and Eskimos resident in the Far North these air-borne messages have a significance of a very unusual kind. When it is known that a missionary has received one of these texts the Indians are wont to run to him to ask for an interpretation of the message, and as often as not the verse is used as the text in the next Sabbath worship. Even when the birds are killed, Jack Miner consoles himself with the reflection that the bird bore food both for body and soul.

Biblical pictures are now sent to the missionary workers by Jack Miner to trade to the Indians in

exchange for the metal bands from slain birds. The tags are mailed to Kingsville to assist in tracing migration routes. Thus the novel method of propagating Christianity has not only led to missionary progress, but has also speeded up the study of bird migration through contacts formed in the northlands.

FORGETTING THE DROUGHT

The conditions in the Prairie Provinces of Canada are extremely promising, and there is at the moment no doubt that the drought conditions which affected parts of Southern Saskatchewan last year will be more than counter-balanced by this year's productivity. The Canadian Government, however, have not left everything to an unaided nature. Over 4,600 minor and individual projects have been completed in Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan since the establishment of the Water Development Programme in 1935, under the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, operating by agreement between the Dominion and Provincial Governments. The schemes include dugouts, stock watering dams and irrigation schemes. In Alberta and Saskatchewan 400 irrigation projects have been completed which will affect approximately 12,000 acres of irrigable land.

In addition to this, an enormous amount of work has been done in making available to farmers the latest methods of agriculture, and there has been a wide distribution of crop seeds of the finest kind.

WINNIPEG'S NATURAL WEALTH

It has been customary on this side of the water to look upon Winnipeg as merely a centre of agricultural activity. The Industrial Development Board of Manitoba has, however, been making a survey of the territory around this growing Prairie city, and claims modestly that it is "rich in natural resources." Actually it possesses, according to the Board's findings, 72 per cent. of the available Prairie water power, 93,000 square miles of forested land including spruce, jack pine, oak, elm, ash and poplar, large inland fisheries, fur-bearing animals and game of great variety and, perhaps as important as any, 50 different metallic and non-metallic minerals.

ALIENS IN AUSTRALIA

The *Australasian* gives some interesting figures regarding the distribution of alien immigrants into the Commonwealth. Last year, it says, 6,392 landing permits were issued to aliens coming to Australia. Of these 1,848 specified Victoria as their destination, 1,924 New South Wales, 1,212 Western Australia, 988 Queensland, 411 South Australia, and 9 Tasmania.

Of the 1,848 for Victoria (the figures for which are probably typical), 1,244 wanted to go to Melbourne, 160 to Shepparton, 155 to the Wimmera, 111 to North Eastern districts, 89 to Werribee, and 89 to Gippsland. They comprised 638 Italians, 480 Poles, 240 Greeks, 119 Germans, and 371 persons of other nationalities.

Thirty-three per cent. of the new arrivals were dependent upon relatives. The occupations specified were:—Agricultural workers, 411; assistants

for shops and cafés, 215; manufacturing, 336; home duties, 425; professional, 18. The number of children was 403.

INDIAN VOLUNTEER AIR FORCE

"It has been realised for some time," writes the Simla correspondent of the *Statesman*, "that among the improved defence plans for India, which recent international conditions have rendered desirable, is the strengthening of the country's air defences, with, possibly, the early development of a Volunteer Air Force as a feature of the programme. The idea is that this reserve should be linked up with, and become an essential part of the better coastal defence arrangements which are at present being worked out. The Defence Department of the Government of India, in view of the important discussions now in progress between the War Office and the Secretary of State for India, is not in a position to make any official statement on this, or any other aspect of policy. I have, however, reason to believe that there is every prospect that the perfecting of arrangements for the protection of India from possible air attack will result in a closer liaison between the Royal Air Force and the civil aviation authorities.

"Until recently there has been an inclination to dismiss demands for progress in this direction as unnecessary in view of the unlikelihood of any serious attack on Indian ports, either by sea or air, and as involving prohibitive expenditure. But I understand that the cost of the various proposals is being worked out at the present moment, and there appears to be some prospect that an early effort will be made to bring civil aviation in India into proper relation with defence preparations generally. Finance will decide the immediate issue, and I gather that several ambitious programmes, all admirable in themselves, have been definitely turned down on the ground that the money available for defence being limited, and the manner of its expenditure liable not only to close scrutiny but persistent criticism in the Legislature, first things must come first. This means presumably that there are other schemes which are considered more essential to the safety of India in case of an emergency than air defence development. There is, nevertheless, general agreement among those with whom I have discussed the question—and they represent many interests—as to the desirability of making a beginning with a volunteer air reserve scheme, and that an appeal to patriotic Indians to play their part in the development of it would meet with a valuable response.

"In recruiting for the volunteer reserve cognisance should be taken of the existing standards laid down for civil pilots, wireless operators and ground engineers. Those found suitable for enlistment in the defence force would be given an annual grant and retaining fee, provided they fulfil certain training conditions. These training conditions would clearly have to be strictly enforced and their fulfilment seen to by an officer of the Royal Air Force appointed for the purpose. An annual camp, lasting for, say, a period of a fortnight, it is suggested, might be held at a R.A.F. station, which volunteer reservists would be under obligation to attend.

"I have heard various estimates of the cost of this scheme for the mobilisation of civil aviation personnel for defence purposes, and a lakh of rupees annually for the first few years is probably an under-estimate. A difficulty in considering all the schemes which have been proposed is that civil aviation is unable at the present time to contribute to a properly organised coastal defence scheme aircraft of modern high performance and design which could be converted rapidly for reconnaissance work and for high speed communication. This defect, I have heard it suggested, might be overcome by a special grant to purchasers, whether flying clubs or individuals, of the type of aircraft which would be required in times of emergency, so as to reduce the heavy first cost which is the principal obstacle to the introduction of such types in India. It would have to be a condition of any such grant that each type of aircraft for which a bonus is given would have to be approved by the defence authorities, and that the purchaser would have to undertake to maintain his aircraft in suitable condition for general service for a definite period. Should this be found possible, a start might be made with the elimination from the Indian air routes of obsolete types of 'planes which, while airworthy, have a poor performance and are definitely less economical to operate than more up-to-date types. The question of cost crops up here again, but I am told by experts that an initial expenditure of a lakh of rupees, followed by an annual expenditure of half that amount, would in a short time build up a reserve of high performance aircraft from well nigh the "zero" line to a fleet of which India would have a right to be proud."

INDIAN SHIPPING CLAIMS

The public demand in India for a substantial share of the Indo-Japanese maritime trade for Indian shipping is voiced in the following cable which has been sent by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce to the Chairman of the Imperial Shipping Committee, London:—

"In view of the impending conclusion of the Imperial Shipping Committee's inquiry into the position of British shipping in Middle and Far Eastern waters and the reported departure of representatives of British shipping interests in India to the Far East, presumably in order to negotiate with Japanese shipping interests regarding a mutual arrangement in the Indo-Japanese maritime trade, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce earnestly draw the attention of the Imperial Shipping Committee to the strong public demand in India for a substantial share of the Indo-Japanese maritime trade for Indian shipping, particularly on the ground that such trade is between Japan and their own country and because India's bargaining power based on India's market must be utilised for the development of Indian shipping overseas.

"The Federation draw attention to the resolution passed at their last session, that in any scheme for regulation of inter-Imperial maritime trade or other measures for development of Empire shipping in the interests of a common Empire maritime policy, steps should be taken to secure an equitable

and legitimate share of such trade to Indian shipping.

"The Federation consider that the forthcoming report of the Imperial Shipping Committee provides an opportunity to secure India's willing and active co-operation in implementing the Empire maritime policy by recognising the claim of Indian shipping for a legitimate share in its own overseas maritime trade in conformity with the policy enunciated and reiterated by the Government of India by securing as an initial step a proper share for Indian shipping in maritime trade based on India's own exports and market. India will estimate the value and importance of what is called the Empire maritime policy by the manner in which India's legitimate claim for participation in inter-Imperial trade is adequately recognised and effectively implemented by the Imperial shipping interests not by words but by action."

ALL-INDIA RADIO AND NATIONAL ANTHEM

There has been some speculation, if not controversy, says the *Statesman*, about the omission of the National Anthem from the programmes broadcast by All-India Radio. Mr. A. K. Sen, the new Director of the Calcutta station, referred to this among other subjects in his recent talk to local listeners. His Department, he said, had come to the conclusion that the Anthem should be kept for special occasions, as its monotonous reiteration after every performance tended to be harmful rather than helpful to feelings of loyalty. The *Statesman* thinks there is justification for this view. "The Anthem is less understood in this country than in most parts of the Empire and, although no one would suggest that it should cease to be played at the end of theatrical and cinematograph performances, it cannot be claimed that audiences always treat it with courtesy. Listeners to broadcast programmes consist of many small groups in their own homes. Is it expected that they will always rise to their feet, or even break off their conversation, when they hear the Anthem? As the answer is 'No,' it seems better that its playing should, as Mr. Sen suggests, be reserved for occasions of special significance."

AIR DEVELOPMENTS

At the present time, over 13 tons of letters a week are being carried by air on the Indian and Eastern Service, and more than 9 tons on the Africa route. These figures, it should be noted, do not include mails flown between intermediate points on the trunk routes. They refer only to letters departing from, or arriving at, the air-port at Southampton. It should be noted also that the non-surcharge system has not yet been applied to mails to China, Australia and New Zealand. When, in due course, these countries come into the "all-up" scheme, the letter-mail totals will, of course, be augmented considerably.

Even allowing, however, for such limitations as those mentioned, the present total average of over 20 tons of mails air-borne every week in the aircraft of Imperial Airways on Empire routes has never been approached, so far, by any other air organisa-

tion engaged in the transport of mails. In fact, these figures for the first quarter of 1938 demonstrate, conclusively, the lead now attained by Britain in the volume of mail-loads carried on external air routes such as those connecting the homeland with distant parts of the Empire. This lead has been emphasised by a comparison with air-mails carried by American aircraft operating on United States external routes. Figures published recently in America showed, for example, that during the year 1937 the total of mails carried by all external air services operating out of the United States was 94 tons—an average of less than 2 tons a week.

A group of young men following a new calling has just entered upon their period of training. They constitute a further batch of Flight-Clerks who, when proficient, will voyage across the Empire by air in the long-distance aircraft of Imperial Airways. Doing work resembling that of a ship's purser, Flight-Clerks were introduced by Imperial Airways when they brought into service their big "C" class flying-boats. When the new batch of Flight-Clerks have completed training, the Company will have approximately 50 of them in service. During the flight of an Empire aircraft they are responsible for the ship's papers, for dealing with documents at halting-points, and for the handling of mail-loads. They also assist passengers with baggage and other matters, and not only point out interesting landmarks while in flight, but also convey information from Captain to passengers as to the speed the aircraft is maintaining, and the probable time of arrival at the next port of call.

In connection with air transport developments in Ireland—and more particularly to facilitate the regular operation of trans-Atlantic services flying from Newfoundland to Ireland and on to England—the Government of Eire is to establish a chain of weather-reporting stations on the south-west, south and south-east coasts of Ireland. These stations will report frequently to the Shannon air-port and also to Dublin. This organisation will ensure that the Captains of ocean-flying craft will receive all the information they require as to weather conditions prevailing round the Irish coasts.

Active steps are now being taken to provide Durban—South Africa's air-terminus of the flying-boat service from England—with a fine, permanent marine air-port. The equipment is to include a specially designed floating-dock which is to be sent out from England. A large sum is to be devoted to making the air-port completely up-to-date in every technical aspect. In addition to the provision of a floating-dock, there are to be large hangars, and every facility for maintenance and overhaul. Soil dredged and excavated is to be used on land reclamation work necessary on the site for hangars and workshops, and also to provide a mole 650 feet long. Flying-boat passengers will alight at a jetty forming part of this mole.

Amplified air facilities in South Africa, scheduled to become effective in June, will ensure the delivery of the previous day's mails and newspapers to people at isolated outposts in Bechuanaland and South-west Africa who, previously, have been almost completely cut off from civilisation.

COMPANY MEETING**BEECHAMS PILLS**

THE tenth ordinary general meeting of Beechams Pills, Ltd., was held on May 26 at the May Fair Hotel, London, W.

Mr. Philip E. Hill (chairman of the company) who presided said: The profit of £600,908, although a record in the company's history and an increase over that of last year of £59,498, is disappointing in so far as the home sales are concerned. This is attributable entirely to the exceptionally mild winter experienced, and the adverse effect it has had on the sale of the company's seasonal products. Under normal conditions the profits should have been greater. The result of the export business, however, is most encouraging and shows an increase over last year's figures of more than £20,000.

The company owns and markets the following proprietary articles:

Beechams Pills; Beechams Powders; Beechams Lung Syrup; Cassell's Tablets; Veno's Lightning Cough Cure; Cicfa; Dinnefords Magnesia and Tablets; Germolene Ointment and Soap; Holloway's Pills and Ointment; Iron Jelloids; Lactopeptine; Nicocin; Phensic; Phosferine; Ashton and Parsons Baby Powders; Phyllosan; Sherley's Dog and Cat Foods and Medicines; Yeast-Vite Tablets; Amami Shampoos and other products.

The proposed bonus issue of Preference shares redeemed at average periods over the next ten years, will require, with the premium on redemption, an additional sum of £45,000 annually. This should be provided without imposing difficulties on the company in continuing the payment of a dividend of 85 per cent., provided, of course, that unforeseen events outside the control of your board do not arise.

Your directors have felt for a long time past that the present share capital of the company did not represent the intrinsic value of the assets. Accordingly they have revalued, with the assistance of Messrs. Price Waterhouse & Co., the investments in our subsidiary companies, with the result that Messrs. Price Waterhouse & Co. have advised the company that the value of such investments was not less than £2,500,000, and the value of such investments has accordingly been placed at that figure and the increase in value placed to a capital reserve account. From this capital reserve account the sum of £900,000 has been transferred to general reserve, and you have received notices convening the necessary meetings to capitalise this sum immediately into 5 per cent. Redeemable Cumulative Preference shares of £1 each, which it is proposed to issue as a bonus credited as fully paid to the holders of Deferred shares in this company. These shares will be redeemed by the company out of profits on or before the 31st March, 1949, or by yearly drawings at 22s. per share.

To prevent the possibility of the Preferred Ordinary shares being in any way prejudiced, your directors are recommending the shareholders to convert these Preferred shares into 10 per Cent. Cumulative Preferred Ordinary shares, giving the holders of these shares the right to a fixed cumulative 10 per cent. dividend, payable before the 5 per Cent. Redeemable Cumulative Preference shares or the Deferred shares receive any dividend at all. Under the existing proposals the 10 per cent. will be payable before any dividend is paid either on the 5 per Cent. Redeemable Preference shares or any dividend whatever on the Deferred shares. Holders of these Preferred Ordinary shares will also have the advantage of receiving a half-yearly dividend at the rate of 5 per cent., as against 4 per cent. hitherto, and the participation rights as to a further 2 per cent. when the result of the year's trading has become known.

The chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts, and it was carried unanimously.

At subsequent separate meetings of the 8 per Cent. Cumulative Participating Preferred shareholders and the Deferred shareholders, and at an extraordinary general meeting of the company, the capital proposals were approved.

COMPANY MEETING**EVER READY****Manufacturers of Batteries**

DRY CELLS, ACCUMULATORS, RADIO EQUIPMENT,
MOTOR CAR ACCESSORIES, PORTABLE ELECTRIC LAMPS.

Net Trading Profit for year to 31st March, 1938	£531,575
Balance carried forward to next year	£68,402
Dividends on Ordinary Stock	35%

Points from the speech of Mr. Magnus Goodfellow (Chairman) at the Annual General Meeting of The Ever Ready Company (Great Britain) Limited on June 1st, 1938.

SATISFACTORY BUSINESS

WHILE the Report and Accounts for the past year are satisfactory, nevertheless we must all feel regret that the expansion in our business that has continued year after year since the existing Company was formed in 1920, was in the past year arrested—let us hope but temporarily.

Until the end of the year 1937 we recorded a normal expansion in our sales, but during the last four months ending 31st March, 1938, we experienced a considerable recession, due to the fall in public consumption. It is well known that many important manufacturing businesses throughout the country experienced a similar falling off in business, and I have read the expression of many thoughtful views on the reasons for this state of affairs. It appears to me that during the past year we have all been brought to realise more clearly the very disturbed conditions existing throughout the world—and reflected in our country by the continued increase in the heavy burden of taxation, the fall in investment values, and the consequent curtailment of public spending.

COMPETITION

We have had to meet competition by price cutting during the period under review—not, for us (who have spent 35 years in developing and fostering this trade) a novel experience, and we are aware that some of these competitors are sustaining actual trading losses in selling their goods at the prices they do. It is fortunate for this Company that the complete re-organisation of our manufacturing facilities, begun now some six years ago, enables us to view this competition with composure and to maintain in the face of it our business and our profits.

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

The surplus of Profit, over the sum required for the Dividend we recommend to you, amounts to £151,000.

The various items of Capital investment (Buildings, Plant and Machinery, Subsidiary Companies and Trade Investments) have not yet had time to be reflected to any considerable extent in our profits. It is, however, our hope and expectation that we shall obtain advantages in the future. We do not anticipate any considerable expenditure under these heads during the coming year.

DIVIDENDS

The Dividend of 35 per cent. on the Ordinary Stock we recommended for the year calls for the amount of £56,500 more than the similar dividend of a year ago. Whilst the surplus profits would have admitted of the payment of a Bonus, we came to the conclusion that, having regard to the disturbed conditions of the world, and our widely spread interests, we should best be discharging our duty by following the more prudent course of retaining this surplus in the Business.

PRESENT YEAR'S TRADING

Whilst Sales in the new year have not opened well (at this time last year we were benefiting from the Coronation festivities), the strength of our Trading position, assisted as it will be by considerable saving in costs of production, gives me the hope that I shall come before you a year hence with a satisfactory report.

Your Investments

A LESSON FROM SPECULATION

THERE is a lesson to be learned from the speculative blaze-up in the 5s. shares of Western Holdings which spurted to over four times their nominal value, giving a mining property in the Orange Free State a market capitalisation of nearly £3,000,000 before any real development had even commenced to prove its value. It is that a market artificially flooded with "cheap money" and deprived by the political factor of any confidence in long-term investment will welcome a chance for a gamble. We have seen this development before and we shall encounter it many times again if the world runs along its present course. Just at the moment there are ample opportunities for the investor to secure a good income with a reasonable margin of security, but the only investment medium which appears to inspire confidence is a British Government stock. This will yield him at best a bare 3½ per cent. subject to income tax at 5s. 6d. in the £.

COMPANY MEETING

ODHAMS PRESS, LIMITED

THE eighteenth annual general meeting of Odhams Press Limited was held at the Connaught Rooms, London, on the 26th ultimo.

The Right Hon. Lord Southwood of Fernhurst (the chairman and managing director), who presided, said that the profit for the year amounted to £340,192.

Included under the heading of profit and loss appropriation was the sum of £29,000 in respect of the guaranteed Preference dividend of Odhams (Watford) Limited, in which their company owned all the Ordinary shares. That company is now trading on a satisfactory profit-earning basis and that guaranteed preference dividend was repayable to their company out of the future profits of Odhams (Watford) Limited.

Copyrights showed an increase of £69,000. The greater part of that was represented by the expenditure on the launching last June of the new journal *Woman*. This publication has already proved to be very successful, and had attained a weekly net sale of more than 500,000 copies.

The facilities for rapid, efficient colour-printing available at their Watford company's works have made it possible for this and other of the company's publications to set up a higher standard than that which has hitherto prevailed.

With regard to Odhams (Watford) Limited, the programme of extension had had to be extended to enable the company to handle the large volume of work available. The Speedry process of colour-printing, of which that company had the sole British rights, was proving very successful. An issue of capital would be made shortly in order to finance those extensions to the factory and to the plant of that company.

The directors recommend a dividend on the Ordinary shares at the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum. In view of the uncertainty of world conditions, the directors have thought it wise to make this somewhat smaller distribution for the year under review. In the current year we have to meet very much increased costs in paper and labour. The directors are taking steps, as far as possible, to deal with this position, and it is anticipated that a large part of the additional cost will be able to be recovered. The report was adopted.

A capital profit on Western Holdings is not subject to tax and its only drawback is the problem of re-investment which it presents. In normal times re-investment of speculative profits is a powerful factor in market recovery, but politics have overcome even this influence for good.

INDUSTRIALS AND COMMODITIES

To judge by the way the investor shuns quite good industrial shares yielding him anything from 7 to 9 per cent., there is an entire distrust of the impression given by last year's profits. In many ways this distrust is justified and here the commodity price factor enters into the argument. The violent upswing in commodity prices which took place in the autumn of 1936 and reached its peak early in 1937, raised values of stocks of industrial companies to a high level and stimulated sales in every direction by those who were afraid of being "caught short." Your consumer—like the investor—always rushes in to buy on a rising market when he should actually do so on a falling market. The depression of 1929-33 saw a gradual slump in commodity prices with disastrous results. The present setback is witnessing an almost unprecedented rapid slump in commodities. The villain of the piece in this connection is U.S.A., whose experience in attempting to make industry and business subservient to Socialist experiment may yet save more civilised countries from themselves. If and when the U.S. politicians realise that Government control and private enterprise cannot live with each other, then commodity prices will recover and world trade may have a chance to revive.

BEECHAMS SHARE "SPLIT" HINT

Prosperity of the Beechams Pills combine is almost phenomenal and hence the 5s. shares are usually priced over 60s., receiving a dividend of 85 per cent. At the recent meeting the Chairman mentioned that the Board had under consideration a scheme for giving the deferred shares a market value of around 5s. so as to make them available to a wider investing public. This would mean a denomination of about 6d., an unusually low one for the units of a company of repute, and the alternative would seem to be an adjustment of the capital position to make the shares less highly geared. In either event present shareholders would seem likely to benefit, and though a patent remedy combine is necessarily in the speculative class, Beechams deferred, priced around 47s. 6d., do not look unattractive.

ODHAMS PRESS OUTLOOK

Lord Southwood, presiding at the meeting of Odhams Press, was able to report on the continued success of the company's publications, but he pointed out that they had had to meet very much increased costs in the current year for paper and labour. To finance extensions to factory and plant by Odhams (Watford) to cope with their large volume of work, a capital issue would shortly be made, shareholders of the Odhams group being given preferential opportunity to subscribe. Lord Southwood thought they would be able to recover a large part of this year's additional costs.

EXCEPTIONS TO THE RULE

For the moment exceptions to the rule of depression concern the secondary industries which depend upon public purchasing power for their success. Tobacco manufacturers should be enjoying a good year on the strength of the present state of British employment. Consequently, Imperial Tobacco at 6½ yielding over 5 per cent. less tax, look an attractive purchase and the same remark applies to many brewery shares giving good yields and capital steadiness over a period. In the brewery section there are several shares which have yet to show the full benefit of increased spending power in the region in which they operate, and Associated Breweries of Sunderland at 31s. yielding £5 16s. per cent. is in this class.

TEA SHARES

Another class of share much neglected at the moment is that of the Tea Plantation companies. These are returning highly satisfactory results for the past year and prices at auction for the current season are being fully maintained. For the next year or so Tea companies are likely to increase profits. Yet the share market has received little support and yields of over 7 per cent. on such sound shares as Chulsa at 42s. 6d. and Doors at 39s. 6d. and over 8½ per cent. on Sylhet at 28s. 9d. look more than useful, even allowing for the speculative element which attaches to all plantation ventures.

D. NAPIER HOPES

Aircraft shares are in a special category since they are thriving as the result of taxation which threatens to cripple ordinary industries. Boulton & Paul at 6s. 1½d. and Phillips & Bowis at 6s. 6d. look the best of the "unknowns" in this group. But among the aero-engine manufacturers is D. Napier & Son, a company which has disappointed in the past, but which now looks capable of rewarding shareholders. Dividends have been resumed on the 8 per cent. non-cumulative preference and if the new engine is up to expectations there is a good chance of an ordinary payment. As the time approaches for this optimism to be put to the test, the ordinary shares are likely to go several shillings higher than their present level of 10s. For each of the past three years the "high" has been over 15s.

DEPRESSED RAILS

Home Railways are a deeply "depressed area" of stock markets, the serious traffic declines coming at the same time as increased wages demands. The outlook is anything but rosy at the moment unless the heavy industries settle down at a rather higher level of activity than seems likely. But this is no reason for the indiscriminate marking down of the stocks. With a dividend cover of £3,127,000, L.M.S. 4 per cent. (1st) preference looks quite undervalued at 66, yielding over 6 per cent.

Letters to the Editor

PEACE IN SPAIN

Sir,—Surely the difference between withdrawing foreign volunteers from Spain and stopping the Spaniards from fighting is not one of degree, but of principle and expediency.

Our Government considers it to be expedient for the peace of Europe and in accord with the rights of nations to manage or mismanage their own affairs, that all foreigners—Russians, Germans, French, Italians and the International Brigades—should be at once withdrawn. But an attempt to enforce peace from outside upon the Spaniards themselves would be an infringement of their rights as a nation to settle their own quarrels.

The obstruction by the Soviets to the British plan indicates that the war in Spain, if the Spaniards were left to themselves, would come to a rapid conclusion in favour of the side which considers it no disgrace to cry "Viva Espana!"

The absolute victory of one side or the other, though it might not lead to everlasting peace, is essential if Spain is to enjoy a long period of stability such as our business and political interests demand.

But a patched-up peace would leave neither side subdued, and both strong and determined enough to hammer away at each other again at the first opportunity. Anyone who has lived long in Spain knows this to be the case. Facts are stubborn things.

ERNEST C. WALDWIN.

6, Lower Sloane-street, S.W.1.

WATER RESERVOIRS

Sir,—I was amused and interested by your note in your last issue on the subject of the drought. The phenomenally dry Spring has undoubtedly done a great deal of damage to crops and gardens.

What many people cannot understand is why authority has so long omitted to tackle the double problem that faces this country year after year, in mild or grave form—that of floods at one period and drought at the other!

Surely something might be done to preserve some of the superfluous water that parts of the country received in the Winter and Spring for use when and where it is often so badly needed?

One cannot think that the best of our engineers are incapable of suggesting worth while schemes for water preservation or for diverting some of the excessive flood water into reservoirs for irrigating thirsty lands when Jupiter Pluvius forgets his duties and takes too prolonged a rest from his labours.

J. M. CARRUTHERS SMITH.

Colchester.

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ROSSALL SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

THE following elections have been made: - *Senior Scholarships*: - B. L. Strachan, D. A. R. Johnson, W. A. Barker, W. H. Wharfe, all of Rossall School, and G. E. Wallas, £60 p.a. of Wallasey Grammar School. *Senior Exhibitions*: - A. J. E. Besch, T. R. Goodwin, J. R. E. Walby, all of Rossall School. *Clerical Exhibition*: - J. Bagnall, £40 p.a. of Stoneygate School, Leicester. *Junior Scholarships*: - B. M. Bonfield, £100 p.a. of St. Mary's School, Melrose, A. J. P. Sankey, £80 p.a. of Red House, Moor Monkton, J. M. Rigby, £60 p.a. of Rossall Junior School, G. C. Mansfield, £60 p.a. of St. Mary's School, Melrose, D. McL. F. Drew, £50 p.a. of Rockport, Craigavad, Co. Down, M. W. A. Gover, £50 p.a. of Dragon School, Oxford, W. J. Graham, £50 p.a. of Dardenne School, Kilmalcolm. *Junior Exhibitions*: - J. E. Eardley, P. C. E. Williams, £40 of Rossall Junior School, R. G. Evans, £40 p.a. of Searisbrick College, Birkdale, J. N. W. Moss, £40 p.a. of Embscott Lawn, Warwick, E. D. Lindesay, of Rossall School. *Council Nomination*: - M. G. Johnson, of Embscott Lawn, Warwick. Headmaster of Rossall School.